



Tales of AfricaAdapt

Harnessing knowledge
for adaptation to
climate change in Africa



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to climate change in Africa

2011



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For further information, contact:

AfricaAdapt Secretariat

ENDA Tiers Monde

54, Rue Carnot

BP 3370, Dakar

Senegal

Email: info@africa-adapt.net

Website: www.africa-adapt.net

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Foreword

Knowledge has become a powerful resource for positive change in communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and climate variability. Research tells us that the changing climate is aggravating the complex challenges of food security and sustainable livelihoods in Africa. These negative impacts are expected to increase and to have devastating consequences on the continent, affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions of people.

Throughout Africa, knowledge, research and innovations for adaptation at the community level are increasing. Where such knowledge and experiences are interlinked and shared across sub-regions, sectors and stakeholder groups, they can be built on without everyone 'reinventing the wheel'. However, interlinkage and sharing are insufficient for this purpose in Africa.

AfricaAdapt is an Africa-wide platform that supports the sharing of knowledge

on adaptation to climate change across geographical, linguistic, technological and other common barriers. The network focuses primarily on helping vulnerable local communities across the continent to become more resilient to current and future impacts of climate change, and is actively used by researchers, policy makers and civil-society organisations.

This booklet introduces the network (including its evolution) and presents a few of its achievements and prospects for its future beyond 2012. It also showcases three exciting stories about how the network has helped local communities to become more aware of and prepare for the impacts of climate change on their livelihoods (activities funded through the network's Knowledge Sharing Innovation Fund). These stories – told by communities who face the impacts of climate change

every day – show how the sharing and use of knowledge on adaptation to climate change among researchers, policy makers, civil-society organisations and community groups leads to improved livelihoods. We believe that there is scope for researchers, policy makers and other partners to learn from these stories, contribute to, and help refine the adaptation actions for effective use elsewhere in Africa.

As the network enters its second phase in 2011, it will seek to deepen and widen its engagement with its stakeholders, especially local communities, building on the gains and lessons learned from the first phase. As always, we value your feedback and suggestions on how we can improve the network and the knowledge products on offer.

We present the tales of AfricaAdapt!

Secou Sarr,
Programme Coordinator,
ENDA Energie

Prof Monty Jones,
Executive Director,
FARA

Matthew Lockwood,
Head of Climate Change,
IDS

Prof Laban Ogallo,
Director, ICPAC

Acknowledgements

AfricaAdapt would not have developed into the network it is today without the support of all its stakeholders. We acknowledge the support of our funders – the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Climate Change Adaptation in Africa programme (CCAA) – for believing in us and investing in our vision to share knowledge.

We thank the civil-society organisations (community-based organisations [CBOs] and NGOs) that have been an important link between the network and our ultimate target beneficiaries – the local communities – by taking AfricaAdapt to the communities and sharing with us the rich community experiences.

We also thank the researchers who have shared their work with the network. It has been a partnership of mutual support as we have so gladly helped you to share your valuable knowledge and connect with other stakeholders.

To the local communities with whom we engaged either directly or indirectly, we are very grateful to you for sharing your knowledge and experiences. As much as you have gained from the network, the network more than benefitted from your rich experiences and knowledge. We especially thank the communities in Uganda, Ghana and Senegal who allowed us into their lives and freely shared their innovative adaptation actions.

Last but not least, we would not be a network had it not been for the foresight and partnership of the four managing organisations: the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex (IDS), which led the network through its first phase from September 2008 to March 2011, and the three African partner institutions: ENDA Tiers Monde, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), and the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC).





Building the network

AfricaAdapt is a knowledge-sharing network on adaptation to climate change in Africa hosted by four partner organisations:

- Environment and Development in the Third World (ENDA-TM), based in Dakar, Senegal
- Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), based in Accra, Ghana
- IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), based in Nairobi, Kenya
- Institute of Development Studies (IDS), based in Brighton, UK

The network aims at facilitating the flow of knowledge on adaptation to climate change for sustainable livelihoods among researchers, policy makers, civil-society organisations (CSOs) and communities that are vulnerable to climate variability and change across the African continent.

Although AfricaAdapt was formally launched in May 2009, work on establishing the network's modalities, core partners, and staffing had been underway for more than 2 years prior to its launch. The network was funded under a broader programme on Climate Change Adaptation in Africa (CCAA) through the UK's Department for

International Development (DFID) and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

The CCAA programme was designed to promote African research through the use of participatory action and research. AfricaAdapt was conceived to work within a similar ethos of promoting African knowledge to help African communities understand and adapt to climatic changes. Early thinking around the establishment of a knowledge-sharing network was largely shaped by discussions between IDRC and IDS. Both institutions had significant experience in providing knowledge services for development. An IDRC representative said that the initial thinking was:

...to create a platform that would allow not just CCAA partners, but others engaged in research and (more broadly) policy makers involved in adaptation to climate change in Africa, to share their ideas and experiences. Simple stories or knowledge on adaptation to climate change can be shared with confidence that such sharing adds value to their own personal learning.

Meanwhile, from its years of working on adaptation to climate change, IDS had



IDS staff member who was on the search committee, was 'to understand and analyse the offer of potential partners in relation to establishing a consortium that can be operational to immediately respond to the climate change challenge. The partners should have the capacity to deliver and have experience in working within a consortium.'

The initial scoping for partners was held in Addis Ababa in April 2007, where potential partners and policy makers engaged with CCAA-supported participatory action-research projects, were assessed on their knowledge-sharing needs and vision for a knowledge-sharing network. The process generated interest from all fronts – research, NGOs, international organisations and CBOs. IDS and IDRC then organised two writeshops in 2007 – the first in Senegal in September and the second in Ghana in mid-October. The purpose was to identify institutions that could deliver within a short time frame and sustain the long-term initiative. Ideas, information and knowledge were shared by invited institutions. Three African partner institutes were ultimately selected- ENDA-TM, FARA and ICPAC. Through vibrant online exchanges the three partners worked together with IDS to develop the final network proposal, which was submitted to IDRC just 2 weeks after the October writeshop. The proposal was founded on the belief that knowledge

observed that there was no common platform where local communities could exchange their knowledge. IDRC and IDS agreed that for such a network to be sustainable, a minimum number of African institutions had to be involved. They worked on minimum criteria for partner institutions, such as mandate, potential contribution and capacity to implement. IDS initiated the process by inviting eligible African institutions to present expressions of interest in joining a knowledge-sharing partnership at a series of regional meetings around Africa (funded by IDRC). The aim of these meetings, according to an



generated by research must benefit Africa's most vulnerable people.

In February 2008, the network's *inception phase* commenced. Roles and responsibilities were openly discussed and designated on the basis of the capacities of the partners.

The network was officially launched in May 2009 in Mombasa. To mark the occasion, the AfricaAdapt team met with journalists from the Kenyan media. This interaction included a media field trip to the world-famous mangrove plantation at Gazi Bay, which showcases the impacts of sea



AfricaAdapt inception meeting, Tunis, 2008



Press conference at the launch of AfricaAdapt

level rise and erosion along the Kenyan coastline, clearly demonstrating the need for adaptation to climate change.

The AfricaAdapt network was thus born.

Since its launch, AfricaAdapt's membership and reach has grown steadily to over 1000 subscribers to its online platform and many more who engage through face-to-face meetings. The membership is composed of researchers, NGOs, CBOs, academia and the media. AfricaAdapt breaks barriers to sharing knowledge on adaptation through face-to-face events ('Meet and Greet') small grants to support community knowledge sharing (Innovation Fund), printed information products (a network newsletter, CD-ROMs and policy briefs like *Joto Afrika*), an interactive online platform (www.africa-adapt.net), and social media channels like Youtube and Twitter.

The falling palm trees at Gazi Bay





Partnerships

Central to AfricaAdapt's achievements is its core team of partners who manage the network. They operate within a learning environment, where decision making and activity implementation are inclusive and pragmatic. The partner organisations each focus on different sectors of development – social research, climate science, agriculture, energy and environment – but all have common interest and experience in knowledge management.

The key strengths of the partnership model:

- *African ownership.* The model is based on co-ownership of the network by partners, not a sub-contract model.
- *Dedicated knowledge-sharing officers (KSOs).* These dedicated officers in each partner organisation have been central to the success of AfricaAdapt. They are the drivers of the network's activities.
- *Decentralised delivery.* The physical location of the partners in 3 African cities has enabled AfricaAdapt to be readily available to facilitate exchange between stakeholders.

The KSOs were chosen not only for their ability to respond to the network's demands, but also based on how they could fit into the culture of their host institution. In ENDA, the KSO is involved more in general environmental issues; at FARA, an agricultural background is essential; while at ICPAC, having a climate

researcher is critical; and at IDS, a research fellow with strong knowledge-management skills is important.

Implementing this unique model was not without its challenges, especially at the start. However, as the network was operationalised, its added value became clearer and it cemented the host institutions. At FARA, AfricaAdapt became the main platform on climate change; at ICPAC, it became a platform to better communicate with local communities; and at ENDA, it became a useful resource to help stakeholders better understand adaptation.

Trust, reinforced by regular face-to-face meetings and exchange visits between the partners, has been instrumental in building and maintaining a strong team. This was critical to keeping the partnership together during the handover of the lead coordination role from IDS to the new lead, ENDA, which was selected through a competitive process among the African partner institutions.

The partnership has had its share of challenges. As a network hosted within a larger institution, IDS, AfricaAdapt had to rely on existing staff within the host institution. The network has not been immune to staff turnover within the short period of its existence. Line managers of KSOs within partner institutions and even the lead staff within the coordinating



AfricaAdapt represented at the Bonn Climate Change Talks, 2009

institution changed. Continuity of the network activities was however assured by well-documented activities and processes, regular communications and the dynamic core team.

Beyond the partner institutions, AfricaAdapt gained international recognition due to its engagement with leading climate change initiatives and institutions such as CCAA, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), community-based adaptation conferences organised by IIED¹ Climate Outlook Forums for the Greater Horn of Africa countries, and the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

1. International Institute for Environment and Development



Tales from the communities

“I have always thought that these trees were God-given so they will continue growing just as we just found them. But now I know that we have to replace the trees by planting new ones.”

At the centre of AfricaAdapt's goals is community participation in learning and knowledge sharing on adaptation to climate change at the local level. The following three stories from Uganda, Ghana and Senegal highlight the experiences of some of the beneficiary communities of our Knowledge Sharing Innovation Fund. This fund provides grants of between USD 6,500 and USD 10,000 to CBOs to share adaptation practices in creative ways. So far, 13 exciting projects have been supported in marginalised and hard-to-reach communities across Africa.

Learning to cope in Uganda

A bumpy dirt road snakes through a woodlot in Jimbo village of Lukwanga Parish in Wakiso District into Mrs Deizy Zzimbe's homestead. The unfenced plot is a farmer's dream: crops, vegetables and livestock each playing a part in securing food and income for Deizy's family. Cropping and livestock management are part of sustainable agriculture, a concept Deizy says has helped her survive droughts.

Scientists have attributed recurrent droughts to changes in weather patterns as a result of climate change. Livelihood activities for a majority of communities in Africa are centred on agriculture. For generations, communities

have known the exact time to begin farming. They knew how much rainfall to expect and precisely when it would end. Now, with climate variability, everything has changed. Even the coping strategies that communities used to implement to address climate-related issues seem no longer to work effectively. With food production threatened, the whole chain of livelihood is affected.

Before learning and practising sustainable agriculture, Deizy (like her neighbours) earned an easy income from baking bricks. She did not think twice about cutting trees to fire mud bricks, an activity that has led to deforestation in several parts of Lukwanga. With a growing demand for bricks, fruit trees, especially the nutritious jackfruit, are being cut down for firing the bricks. 'All along I was not aware that if we go on cutting trees for brick baking we were causing deforestation,' Deizy laments. 'I have always thought that these trees were God-given so they will continue growing just as we just found them. But now I know that we have to replace the trees by planting new ones.'

Deizy is a member of the Lukwanga Community Knowledge Centre, located in the heart of Lukwanga district. The centre was funded by the Innovation Fund established to



The endangered jackfruit tree (Artocarpus heterophyllus)

support solutions to sharing information on adapting to the impacts of climate change.

‘Thanks to the opening of this centre, I am now aware about deforestation and its link to climate change,’ Deizy explains. ‘I have seen on television how people are suffering because of deforestation. It is time for women to fight this enemy because hunger is sweeping across the village and malnutrition is affecting our children. We have cut the jackfruit trees and others which provided nutrients for us and our children.’

Weekly meetings convened at the knowledge centre are a platform for Deizy and her neighbours to share information about climate

change and how they can spread knowledge on strategies to adapt to changes. Climate change has affected the way people live, eat and raise extra income. Deizy’s homestead has more than 50 trees that she planted to provide fruits and shade for her vegetables and yams.

Walking up to her

homestead, elephant grass is neatly planted around terraces to hold the soil and serve as fodder for goats that are kept in pens to prevent them from eating the seedlings and shoots. Goat manure is collected for the garden and the field each planting season.

‘Even though it has been a drought year, we have been getting enough food for our family by practising sustainable agriculture which teaches the proper management of manure, water and the soil,’ says Deizy.

Farmers like Deizy work with little, if any, resources to improve their productivity. With more information on better farming practices and strategies to adapt to the impact of

climate change, farmers can live off what they produce and have extra to sell.

Yet access to improved farming methods and knowledge remains a drawback for many smallholder African farmers who lag behind their counterparts in Asia in terms of the amount of fertilizer they use per hectare. African governments have committed to spending at least 10 percent of national budgets on agricultural investment, but few have reached this threshold.

Apart from the challenges with inputs – even though researchers are working on resilient

Lukwanga field visit—Deizy with yam





Improved farming techniques help increase maize yield of this farmer in Lukwanga



Above and below: Drama and song is used to spread the message on climate change



seeds suited to harsh conditions – farmers in Africa have poor access to produce markets owing to the generally weak communications infrastructure. Agricultural productivity will increase if it is matched by increased investment in agricultural research and development to help more farmers like Deizy to apply innovations on their farms.

Evaristo Ndugga, the coordinator of the Lukwanga Community Knowledge Centre, says that the centre has raised the awareness about the impact of climate change in the district using a variety of methods. Reading material complements the use of songs and drama to disseminate information on climate change.

A local NGO helped the community design a colour poster explaining the impact of climate change and suggesting ways of responding to it. Translated into the local language, the poster is used as a teaching and learning aid. It vividly describes how cutting down fruit trees for brick baking is a source of poverty and hunger in the community. The poster draws a picture of hope that planting of trees can provide fruit, land cover and a greener environment through collective community action.

Members of the Lukwanga Community Knowledge Centre have even learnt how to make charcoal from banana peels and sawdust, thus saving trees from being cut for fuel.

Drama and song, performed in the local language – Luganda – has proved a popular and effective means of sharing information on adaptation strategies with the local community. Farouq Ssessanga, for example, a youth representative at the knowledge centre, participates in the local drama group and has taken the lead in planting fruit trees in his garden thanks to tips shared during drama sessions.

The chairman of the drama group, Aaron Ndyababo, explains that drama has portrayed deforestation and the negative impacts of brick baking to help influence some changes in the community: 'Our group has played a big part in raising awareness about climate change in our

community. We see the change in people being able to show two or three trees they have planted indicating they have received some knowledge about the impact of climate change.'

Tuning in Radio JOKKO, Senegal

In the town of Rufisque, Senegal, local community radio stations are raising awareness on climate change through interactive broadcasts to local communities. The project, funded by AfricaAdapt, supported the training of radio journalists to broadcast programmes on adaptation to climate change. These programmes are broadcast in Wolof, the local language.

JOKKO is a community radio established in 2003. It has a 79-percent share of the radio audience in the administrative division of Rufisque, which has a population of 500,000 people. Radio JOKKO has signed agreements with rural districts and communities to involve them in its programmes and services. It is helping to raise awareness on climate change issues, particularly coastal erosion, which has caused damage in Rufisque, a fishing community.

'We received via the internet a call for nominations launched by AfricaAdapt and we told ourselves it was an opportunity to carry out awareness and knowledge sharing activities on the problem of coastal erosion,' says Ahmed Bâ, Programme Coordinator of Radio JOKKO. 'We applied and AfricaAdapt

financed our project to create Clubs Radio Citoyens (Citizens' radio clubs, CRC) to strengthen citizen voices through the JOKKO community radio.'

Each CRC is made up of 25 people and Radio JOKKO has produced radio programmes on climate change in the two districts of Rufisque – Diokoul in the west and Thiawléne in the east. These clubs aim to increase awareness of the causes and consequences of coastal erosion among populations in Rufisque, and examine solutions. The programmes are recorded by the seaside with the participation of all people in the community. With AfricaAdapt's assistance, radio programmes were produced and broadcast daily over a 3-month period in Rufisque and its outskirts to highlight the negative impacts of climate change.

The dyke built to protect against flooding, Senegal



Members of Club Radio Citoyen (CRC)



‘Mosques, markets, even cemeteries were carried away by the sea,’ says Saliou Bâ of the Thiawléne CRC. ‘Radio JOKKO programmes increased people’s awareness of the problem and, as a result, people have stopped collecting sea sand, a practice that was aggravating the problem. A sea wall was built 20 years ago, but it had started to sink. Following the awareness programmes, the communities started to strengthen the wall, but large-scale actions are also needed.’

Journalist and CRC presenter Pouye Moussa said that because 99 percent of Thiawléne’s inhabitants fish for a living, climate change has heightened the scarcity of fish in addition to coastal erosion. People have died while

fishing in high seas because fish are no longer available close to shore.

Aliou Sy, a member of the Thiawléne CRC, and his family have been living in Rufisque since 1904. He said there used to be a forest where the sea is today. An area previously known as Arafat has been swallowed by the sea. About 50 years ago almost 200 houses were carried away by the sea and families had to move.

‘If nothing is done, we will meet the same fate,’ Sy warns. ‘We were told that the problem was caused by climate change, but I think it was worsened by the refilling work that was carried out at the port of Dakar in 1984. As a result, the sea water that should have been around the port is at our place.’

A municipal councillor and member of the CRC, Adama Diop Absa says that every year the sea encroaches onto land, damaging buildings, causing flooding and spreading diseases. ‘We were told by radio JOKKO journalists that it was due to climate change. Elevating the house floors with sea sand as protection is not a sustainable solution. The people have gathered to initiate projects to fight this phenomenon.’

Madame Andama Diop Absa, Municipal Councillor and member of CRC



The sea wall built by the community in Senegal



Adapting in Ghana

A local NGO, People's Dialogue on Human Settlements (PDHS), has coordinated two awareness-raising projects funded by AfricaAdapt for communities in Ghana. One of the communities is Old Fadama, the largest squatter settlement in the country. The other is New Takoradi, a fishing community of about 40,000 people in western Ghana. PDHS facilitates the provision of secure and decent housing for the urban poor, particularly slum dwellers.

PDHS has used the AfricaAdapt website to access information on climate change and compile a manual for training peer educators in Old Fadama. Programme Coordinator, Mensah Owusu, says that the urban poor are the worst affected by the impacts of climate change. He believes that most of the activities of slum communities are climate dependent because they occupy marginal lands where living conditions are deplorable. Owusu says that the capacity of marginalised communities to adapt to climate change is lower than that of other groups of people. In Old Fadama, the People's Dialogue works to highlight the lack of basic services, especially shelter and sanitation. Sanitation is of major concern in Old Fadama because people have no refuse collection facilities and are forced to dump waste indiscriminately.

In New Takoradi, PDHS has created awareness in the community about the causes and impacts of sea erosion and rising sea levels. Prior to the project, some people in the town attributed dwindling fish stocks to superstition. After discussions and training sessions, they now appreciate that some of their practices – such as polluting the water, using dynamite to kill the fish and using small nets – have contributed to the problem.

'Dubars' (community gatherings) have been instrumental in the sharing of knowledge of the impact of climate change in these two slum communities in Ghana. The gatherings facilitate the exchange of information between CSOs and communities. People have also learnt by doing.

'Communities are not empty vessels,' says Owusu. 'There is a lot of information in the community that can be gathered and used. We have used a *dubar* to learn from them and them from us.'

Exchange visits between the communities of Old Fadama and New Takoradi have helped the two groups learn from each other about best practices. In Old Fadama, the communities worked together to establish savings clubs, which meet weekly to discuss solutions to challenges faced by the community. While promoting the culture of saving small amounts of money on a daily and



Housing and sanitation conditions in Old Fadama

weekly basis, the savings clubs also provide a forum for mobilising the community.

The communities testified that information sharing has led to behavioural changes in terms of environmental management. Haruna Abu, and officer with the Ghana Federation



Members of the savings group in Old Fadama

of the Urban Poor, says that information on climate change has triggered new awareness on the need for good sanitation in Old Fadama where communities have initiated new, environmentally friendly ways of waste disposal.

A sanitation task force has also been revived in each zone within the slum.

‘At the community level there has been some change in behaviour,’ Owusu says, ‘but it will take months to achieve lasting behavioural change, so we are looking forward to an opportunity to build on what we have achieved.’

Stringing the stories together

These three stories show how, with limited financial resources, vulnerable communities can be empowered to develop and apply innovative solutions to improve their livelihoods.



Lessons learnt

After two years of implementation, the key learning points to emerge from the network are threefold.

- a. African researchers and members of community organisations are much more comfortable sharing knowledge offline than online. More offline opportunities such as knowledge fairs need to be created, recognising that while online modes are supportive and important, they should be treated as the junior partner.
- b. The balance of effort should be less on building the technical skills of people to communicate their knowledge, and more on emphasising the creation of opportunities for effective sharing and exchange between interest groups and promoting the value of knowledge sharing as an approach.
- c. The ongoing delivery of a knowledge sharing network is considerably different from more traditional project- or programme-based work – anticipated outcomes are difficult to predict and measure and activities required to reach them are evolving, opportunistic and experimental.



Below: Workshop participants discuss with a farmer. Above: Using a donkey to facilitate knowledge sharing



Moving forward

A recurrent question facing the partnership is **'What can we do better to meet the knowledge needs of vulnerable communities in Africa?'** Here are a few ideas that have emerged from the network.

- Complement awareness-raising on climate change by supporting community-led adaptation action through dissemination of successful adaptation technologies and practices.
- Facilitate greater interaction and knowledge sharing between local communities.
- The network needs to increase the opportunities for interaction between members – both virtually and face-to-face – across disciplines and communities.
- Expand the use of multimedia to reach a greater number of communities, for example through interactive community radio broadcasts.

Community radio broadcaster



2011 and beyond

As of 1 June 2011, AfricaAdapt will be a fully African-led network with ENDA as the lead partner with strong support from FARA and ICPAC. Although many of the ideals and objectives of network will remain, the network will increasingly focus on enhancing resilience and reducing vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change. It will do so through better facilitation of knowledge sharing and increasingly active involvement in connecting stakeholders. This will strengthen the culture of knowledge sharing within African institutions by raising the profile of African knowledge and research.

As a learning network, AfricaAdapt will continue to be open and inclusive, but will be selective in its engagements. It will be more outcome-focused, emphasising knowledge sharing for action while increasing geographical and thematic coverage. The current online platform will support more active member-to-member interaction. However, there will also be an increased focus on offline activities, with AfricaAdapt devoting a higher proportion of resources to face-to-face interaction of stakeholders in different types and scales of events from informal 'meet and greets' to knowledge fairs.



Participants at the AfricaAdapt "Meet and greet" in Addis Ababa, 2010

It is envisaged that during phase 2, AfricaAdapt will become established as the principal knowledge-sharing network for Africa. In this second phase, the network will become:

- A research and learning pole on 'what works' in knowledge-sharing practices in Africa, led and managed by dynamic and pragmatic African organisations. It will
- be an eminent convenor of English and French adaptation-knowledge-sharing events.
- A leading provider of African adaptation research and local knowledge to African policy makers, through its online resources and platforms and other communication tools.

- A hub for stimulating innovation in both offline and online knowledge-sharing practices through the Knowledge Sharing Innovation Fund and experimentation with Web 2.0 tools.
- A key broker in knowledge sharing among researchers, policy and decision makers, CBOs and vulnerable communities through face-to-face meetings, alliances with community radio networks, and sharing of cases where improved knowledge access has enabled adaptation.
- A strong voice for the African adaptation-knowledge domain in the increasingly crowded international adaptation information industry.

The AfricaAdapt network has contributed to the increased awareness and interest in adaptation issues among different players and stakeholders in Africa. The diverse and fragmented pockets of knowledge and the low capacity for communicating knowledge remain a challenge, but with the benefit of hindsight AfricaAdapt is well placed to continue in its quest to overcome barriers to knowledge sharing around climate change adaptation on the continent.

The faces of the AfricaAdapt core team



Zachary Atheru

2007-2010

IGAD Climate Prediction and
Application Centre

Nairobi, Kenya

zatheru@icpac.net



Dady Demby

2007-2009

RAILS Programme Officer
Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

Accra, Ghana

ddemby@fara-africa.org



Binetou Diagne

2009 to present

Knowledge Sharing Officer

ENDA Tiers Monde
Dakar, Senegal

binetou.diagne@gmail.com



Nicolas Drunet

2010 to present

AfricaAdapt Program Manager phase 2

ENDA-Tiers Monde
Dakar, Senegal

enda.nicolas.drunet@gmail.com



Maggie Ibrahim

2008–2009

Institute of Development Studies
University of Sussex
Brighton, UK



Lawrence Flint

2009–2010

AfricaAdapt Program Manager phase 2

ENDA-Tiers Monde
Dakar, Senegal



Tom Mitchell

2007–2009

AfricaAdapt Program Manager (phase 1)

Institute of Development Studies
University of Sussex
Brighton, UK



Blane Harvey

2008 to present

Knowledge Sharing Officer

Institute of Development Studies
University of Sussex
Brighton, UK

b.harvey@ids.ac.uk



Mamouda Moussa Na Abou

2007 to present

AfricaAdapt Network Coordinator

ENDA Tiers Monde
Dakar, Senegal

mamoudam@gmail.com



Jacqueline Nnam

2009 to present

Knowledge Sharing Officer

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
Accra, Ghana

jnnam@fara-africa.org



Abebe Tadege

2009 to present

Knowledge Sharing Officer

IGAD Climate Prediction and Application
Centre (ICPAC)
Nairobi, Kenya

atadege@icpac.net



Gilbert Ouma

2009 to present

IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre
Nairobi, Kenya

gouma@icpac.net



Myra Wopereis-Pura

2007 to present

Director, Access to Knowledge and Technologies

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
Accra, Ghana

mwopereispura@fara-africa.org



Emmanuel Seck

2007-2009

ENDA
Dakar, Senegal



François Stepman

2007-2009

Communications and Public Awareness Specialist

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
Accra, Ghana

About AfricaAdapt

AfricaAdapt is an independent bilingual network (French/English) focused exclusively on Africa. The network's aim is to facilitate the flow of climate change adaptation knowledge for sustainable livelihoods between researchers, policy makers, civil society organisations and communities who are vulnerable to climate variability and change across the continent.

How does AfricaAdapt work?

Our activities use the latest web-based applications, face-to-face interactions, and other media for: sharing resources; facilitating learning; and strengthening the African adaptation community. Our online activities are complemented by a range of offline activities and services, including:

- An innovation fund offering small grants for new approaches to knowledge sharing

- Face-to-face meetings bringing people together to exchange ideas and overcome challenges

- A CD-ROM and paper-based dissemination service for network news and resources

Our partners

AfricaAdapt is collaboratively hosted by four organisations:

Environment and Development in the Third World (ENDA-TM), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), and Institute of Development Studies (IDS).

ENDA-TM works to improve the tools of knowledge for initiatives linked to the environment and local development contributing to

the search for alternative development possibilities. It is active in 21 countries and based in Dakar, Senegal. Its approach is to work in close partnership with community-based organisations and community movements. ENDA's Energy Programme focuses on access to energy and climate change.

FARA is an umbrella organization bringing together and forming coalitions of major stakeholders in agricultural research and development in Africa. It complements the activities of African national, international and sub-regional research institutions to promote agricultural innovation. It aims to reduce poverty in Africa through sustainable broad-based agricultural growth and improved livelihoods, particularly of smallholder and pastoral enterprises.

ICPAC enables East African countries to cope better with risks associated with extreme climate variability and change through the provision of climate early warning information. It supports specific sectors to contribute to poverty alleviation efforts, environmental management and sustainable development, improving systems to share climate information and expands the climate knowledge-base to enable appropriate responses.

IDS is a global organisation for research, teaching and communications on international development. It maintains programmes of multidisciplinary research programmes, research and action networks and consortia and hosts a number of knowledge services. Its growing team of experts on climate change works closely with a strong network of partners in developing countries to pioneer research and knowledge partnerships for development in a changing climate.

The network is jointly funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Climate Change Adaptation in Africa Programme.

About AfricaAdapt

AfricaAdapt is an independent bilingual network (French/English) focused exclusively on Africa. The Network's aim is to facilitate the flow of climate change adaptation knowledge for sustainable livelihoods between researchers, policy makers, civil society organisations and communities who are vulnerable to climate variability and change across the continent.

AfricaAdapt is hosted by Environment and Development in the Third World (ENDA-TM), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC) and the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex. The Network is funded through the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Climate Change Adaptation in Africa Programme.



AfricaAdapt Secretariat

ENDA Tiers Monde, 54, Rue Carnot
BP 3370, Dakar, Senegal

info@africa-adapt.net
www.africa-adapt.net

